

Humphrey Knight to George Washington, August 24, 1758, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM HUMPHREY KNIGHT.

MOUNT VERNON Augst the 24th. 1758

SIR/ Yesterday your Waggoner came down from your Quarts. in Fredrick with one mair and four colts and Delivered em to John Allton Colonel Carlyle tells me you mention to him that we Neglect righting to you. I shall Evedently make it appear if I live to see your Honr. that I have lodgd. Severall Letters in Alexandria. to be sent to your Hnr., but I find Severall has miscarried Tuesday Last we had a very fine rain which is all the rain we have had this Summer that has bin to mutch acct, we planted our Crop all over but want of rain Causes a Deal to be wanting but it happens to be ye. worst of the ground that is wanting we have the best Cornfield I believe in our Parts Our stock is all well our people has been sickly and Ned and Ruth is sick now but I hope no danger of Loosing them I believe we have as good a crop of Tobo. growing as any in ye. County. the great house goes on as brisk as Posable the paintr has bin painting 3 Days Our Carpenttr. is now giting leaths to Sheath ye Great house and shall Sheath it Mr. Patterson tells me he will see it well Dun, I keep all the people I can spair out of the Crop making the new meadow which we begun last fall, I shall Stick Close to your business and work your people I hope to your Satisfaction Our mill has been no sarvis to us this 4 or five weeks and more I Dair say for want of water ye. miller says I am Sir yr. Most Hble. Servtt. to Comd

HUMPHREY KNIGHT

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We have made a very fine Crop of Oats and only Seven and sixpence Cost in Mowing. We have thrasht all our wheat with our one people. We have now in the barn thrasht about 40 bushels of old wheat and about 25 of New — Never was any destroyed of either As to what your Honr. would have sewd this fall I am quite a stranger to and as Mr. John Washington has not cum up yet I must aply to your Honr. for advise. I could make what wheat I pleased if I was to sew at Mudy Hole¹ but where you please. Please to wright word where you would have it sewd and what Quantaty.

H. KNIGHT.

¹ One of Washington's farms. It contained four hundred and seventy-six acres, situated on the road from Mount Vernon to Alexandria; divided into seven "fields and clover lots." It was Washington's practice to number, in each division of his four farms (Union, Dogue-Run, Muddy-Hole and River Farms), the separate fields or lots. By this means his overseers were enabled in his absence to follow closely his careful and minute directions regarding his crops and their proper rotation. Throughout Washington's life he took an active interest in and direction of his farms. He excelled in that art as in the other duties to which he was called by Divine Providence; and his tables of rotation of crops, etc., would serve to-day as models for the agriculturist. From no class of correspondence did he, in later years, derive more satisfaction than in that with Sir Arthur Young on topics relative to practical and scientific agriculture.